

REMARKS

A. Claim Objections

Examiner objected to Claim 1 as containing certain informalities namely the omission of the word "said" in the 5th line from the bottom. Claim 1 has been amended and no longer includes this grounds for objection.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Appropriate amendment has been made Claim 1 to overcome the indefiniteness mentioned by Examiner. Details of this amendment are discussed in Section C. Claim 7 was amended to depend from Claim 5.

C. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103

Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bollfrass et al. In addition, Examiner rejected 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Bollfrass et al in view of Singleton. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to overcome the cited references. Neither Bollfrass et al nor Bollfrass et al in combination with Singleton disclose "a seated connector having on its ... interior a third cylinder cavity coupled directly to a fourth cylinder cavity wherein said third cylinder cavity has a smooth inner surface and is present within said first cylinder section and wherein said fourth cylinder cavity has a threaded inner surface and is present within said first lipped portion and said second cylinder section, said third cylinder cavity and said fourth cylinder cavity being of the same diameter; a fifth cylinder cavity coupled directly to said fourth cylinder cavity, wherein said fifth cylinder cavity has a smooth inner surface and is present within

said second cylinder section and a terminal section, said fourth cylinder cavity being of greater diameter than said fifth cylinder cavity; and a base being cylindrical and having a threaded end for threaded connection within said fourth cylinder section of said seated connector." Therefore, Claim 1 should now be allowable.

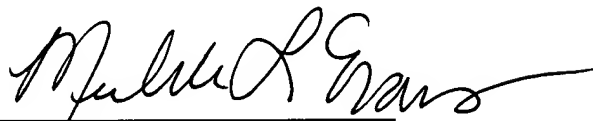
Applicants have considered all points made by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 11, 2003 and have incorporated Examiner's suggestions to ensure compliance with the applicable rules. In view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

If impediments to allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-8 remain and a telephone conference between the undersigned and the examiner would help remove such impediments in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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